Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. The retail prices of decontrolled drugs and formulations are fixed by the manufacturers. Gifts to doctors and chemists do not come under purview of DPCO '95.

(d) and (e) The news item refers to, among other things, Prime Minister's observations regarding Commission taken by Physicians from Pharmaceutical Companies and the need to eradicate such malpractice by doctors themselves and not by law.

Appointment/Posting of SC/ST persons

3024. VEN'BLE DHAMMAVIRIYO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Forum of SC/ST Parliamentarians, in their representations submitted to Prime Minister on 17.12.1996, 1.9.1997 and 23.7.1998 had demanded appointment/posting of SCs/STs to important posts/positions in higher echelons of administration;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the total number of persons appointed/posted Chief Executives, Official/Non-Official members of Board of Directors/ Governing Councils of all Public Sector Undertakings/Autonomous and Statutory Organisations under the Ministry during the last five years; and

(d) the SCs and STs among them and their percentage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The Memoranda submitted by the Parliamentary Forum for SCs and STs urged the Government of India to take comprehensive measures for development of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and, *inter-alia,* requested for posting of suitable persons belonging to the SCs/STs to posts of importance such as Governors, Ambassadors, Members of Planning Commission, Secretaries to the Government of India, Members of the UPSC, PESB, Directors of PSUs etc.

The Policy, as enunciated in the resolution No. 27(21)EO/ 86(ACC) dated 3.3.1987 constituting the Public Enterprises Selection

Board (PESB), is to appoint, through a fair and objective selection procedure, outstanding professional managers to Level-I (Chief Executives) and Level-II (Directors) posts in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). Caste is not one of the criteria for selecting persons for appointments to the Board level posts of PSUs. Therefore, information on the number of persons belonging to the SCs/STs among those appointed to Board level posts in the PSUs under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers is neither available nor is it maintained.

Production Cost of Fertilizers

†3025. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gas, naptha and fuel oil are used in chemical fertilizers producing companies in the country;

(b) if so, the present capacity for production of fertilizers in the country by using all the above means, separately;

(c) whether the production cost of fertilizers produced by the above means is also different; and

(d) if so, what has been the average production cost in these three types of fertilizer units separately during 2000-2001, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Feedstock-wise present capacity for production of nitrogenous fertilizers in the country is

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.